



IRON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ICRTEC CHAIR—MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON • ICRTAC CHAIR—TOM STRATTON • PLANNING MANAGER—CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

December 2, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Parowan City Offices

33 East 100 North, Parowan, UT

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Tom Stratton
Mr. Steve Platt
Mr. Kit Wareham
Mr. Rob Dotson
Mr. Shayne Scott

REPRESENTING:

Brian Head Town
Iron County
Cedar City
Enoch City Manager
Parowan City

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mayor Connie Robinson
Mr. Stoney Shugart
Mr. Monte Aldridge

REPRESENTING:

Paragonah Town
Kanarraville Town
Utah Dept. of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Dave Demas

REPRESENTING:

Five County Assoc. of Governments

I. Quorum Declaration

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tom Stratton. Mr. Stratton called the meeting to order and declared that there was a quorum present for conduct of business.

II. Approve Minutes for July 1, 2015 & August 25, 2015; and Notes for October 7, 2015 Meeting

Mr. Stratton presented minutes of the July 1, 2015 and August 25, 2015 meetings for discussion and consideration. Mr. Steve Platt pointed out corrections as follows on the July 1, 2015 minutes: page two, 3rd line should read “rights-of-way” rather than right-of-way. This error continues twelve times throughout the minutes and will need to be corrected. The August 25, 2015 meeting minutes, page two, second paragraph, sixth line should read... suggested that we discuss at the next meeting...; page three, 3rd paragraph should readnoted that UDOT is conscientious of



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providing ample notice. Because a quorum was not present, meeting notes were transcribed for the October 7, 2015 meeting. Mr. Steve Platt provided one correction to the notes on page 4, paragraph 3 which should read: Tooele County. These notes are provided only for committee members to be aware of the discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Kit Wareham, seconded by Mr. Steve Platt, to approve minutes of the July 1, 2015 and August 25, 2015 meetings as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. Review of Any New Concept Reports

Mr. Demas provided a copy of one new concept report provided by Mr. Kit Wareham and Mr. Steve Platt as a joint Cedar City/Iron County project. Mr. Kit Wareham reviewed the project as Westview Drive from Center Street to Old Highway 91 in Hamilton Fort. This includes a paved road section 34 feet wide with two-way travel lanes for vehicles and paved bicycle lanes on each side. The project is approximately four miles long. Total project cost is estimated at \$3,500,000 for improvement, expansion, drainage and rehabilitation of an existing road. The road serves both Cedar City and Iron County as a major arterial connecting SR-56 to I-15 south bound. There are several subdivisions in the vicinity, most of which are within the county. A couple of curves will be realigned and softened as part of the project, which will require the purchase of some right-of-way. Mr. Dave Demas asked if the road would need to be wider to provide turn-outs for some of the subdivisions. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that the project does not include accommodations of this type for any of the subdivisions.

Mr. Tom Stratton provided information regarding Hunter Ridge Road which passes by Cedar Breaks Lodge from SR-143, two large hotels, and extends into residential areas. The road was built several years ago, but when it was constructed they neglected to drain all of the springs in the vicinity. The road continually weeps and road conditions are deteriorating. Brian Head has ground up a lot of the pavement and replaced the asphalt, but the road needs spring collection to stabilize the base as well as storm drainage improvements. Storm drainage is a terrible problem in Brian Head. Hunter Ridge is one of the three roads in Brian Head that has been declared or titled as a collector street in the newly adopted Transportation Master Plan. Cost of repair is estimated at approximately \$575,000. The project is estimated at approximately 1,800 feet in length.

Mr. Tom Stratton discussed a second project in Brian Head to install storm drainage along Highway 143 in various locations. Since the overlay was applied to Highway 143, the town is experiencing problems with drainage that is undermining the new



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roadway. Ditches are approximately three feet deep and in some areas material was brought in from over by Panguitch and dumped into the ditches. This has created quite a mess as well as presenting a safety issue. Mr. Steve Platt asked if UDOT would allow Brian Head to complete a drainage project in their right-of-way. Mr. Tom Stratton indicated that his intent is getting the project included on the RPO list in order to encourage UDOT to address these issues. This project would hopefully be eligible for small urban funds. Committee members pointed out that the small urban fund keeps diminishing and there are a large number of cities competing for the limited funds that are available. Mr. Dave Demas noted that UDOT will review projects in detail to determine why they are on the list, the need, whether the project should be undertaken by the city or by UDOT, etc.

IV. Project Prioritization

Mr. Dave Demas indicated that copies of the prioritized list are available for review, and committee members reviewed capacity project rankings. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that the first project on the list, Coal Creek Road SR-130 Phase I, can be removed and placed on the funded list because funding has been secured and is in place. The Coal Creek Road Project SR-130 Phase II needs to include earthwork and structural widening. The Coal Creek Road SR-130 Phase III project needs to include right-of-way and structure widening, and the Coal Creek Road SR-130 Phase IV project needs to be removed from the list. Corridor Preservations funds have been approved to secure the rights-of-way for this project. Mr. Dave Demas indicated that ranking sheets could be utilized or the group could rank projects as per discussion today. Questions were posed in terms of how fast the Coal Creek projects are moving ahead and whether the number two project should be moved further down the list. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that monies from the small urban funds for Phase II would not be available until 2019 and 2020 and funding for Phase III would be further out. Committee members discussed the ranking of projects as provided on the spreadsheet and whether that would work for everyone. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that he would provide a new dollar amount for the Coal Creek Road SR-130 Phase III project. Mr. Demas reviewed the ranking as Iron Springs Road #1 and the last would be the Hunter Ridge Road Reconstruction. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that the amount listed for the new Enoch Interchange should be \$25 million. It was noted that this project could be moved down the list. As per previous discussion, the north leg of the belt route tied into this project. Mr. Steve Platt suggested that these two projects be reversed on the list. He also suggested that the upgrade to the Kanarraville Interchange be moved ahead of the north leg of the belt route. Mr. Tom Stratton mentioned that going forward it would be good to include the estimated construction year on the spreadsheet. Priority ranking on the sheet for numbers 1-7 will be the same. Number 8 would be the Kanarraville interchange upgrade. Number



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9 would be the north leg of the belt route Phase III, and number 10 would be the new Enoch Interchange. The Coal Creek Belt Route Phase III would be #11, West View Drive #12 and #13 would be Hunter Ridge Road reconstruction. Mr. Tom Stratton reiterated that small urban funding is very competitive among cities throughout the state of Utah. The goal for Brian Head is to get the project included on the prioritized list at this point because without being on the list no funding could be allocated. For the future, projects will be listed in chronological order on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Dave Demas reviewed the Safety project prioritized list and noted that the only project added was the SR 143 safety/drainage. However, it was noted that Mr. Shane Scott is planning to make application for funds to rehabilitate the Parowan Main Street Bridge. The funding amount for this project is listed as \$500,000 which came from input provided by UDOT. Mr. Shane Scott commented that Parowan continues to push the improvement/realignment of the South I-15 interchange due to safety concerns. Mr. Dave Demas indicated that he would check with Monte Aldridge to see if UDOT ever addressed the signal timing on SR-56. This may not be a safety project by definition, but it can be left on the list for action. The traffic signal at Midvalley Road and SR-130 needs to be changed to Enoch as the jurisdiction on the project list. Mr. Rob Dotson mentioned that all four corners of this intersection are commercially zoned and some anticipated development of this area may change in the next few years. The warrant study does not warrant action at this time, but this may change with added development in the future. Mr. Dave Demas commented that safety projects are good because they can often move from concept to construction within a year because UDOT wants the money expended quickly. Mr. Tom Stratton pointed out that there are more traffic accidents on SR-143 than there are on SR-14. Committee members agreed that a project should be added for SR-143 to provide passing lanes at some strategic locations. Mr. Tom Stratton will provide locations for inclusion into the project list. Mr. Kit Wareham indicated that Cedar City would also like to improve lighting on Main Street to address safety issues and it would be good to have this added to the project list. This would be a Cedar City/UDOT project.

Mr. Steve Platt asked if additional studies needed to be included on the list. Mr. Rob Dotson reported that Enoch City will be doing their Master Transportation Plan in the upcoming year. The city is currently in the process of redoing their Capital Facilities Plan. Committee members agreed that this project needs to be moved up to #1 on the list. Mr. Tom Stratton mentioned that development of a regional bike/ped/atv use plan would be beneficial to everyone. All other project should remain the same as on the current list. Mr. Dave Demas reported that the Dixie MPO has recently funded a transit study from St. George to Springdale. The MPO had to fund a little over 50% of this study, and the County Council of Governments (COG) funds were



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used to provide the balance of this study cost. Consultants from Texas were in town last week to kickoff this study. This particular consultant group specializes in rural transit studies, and they have assembled a very good team.

Committee members reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project list. Mr. Dave Demas explained that UDOT prefers to utilize TAP funds on a number of small projects. Otherwise these funds are programmed in the STIP at UDOT's discretion. He questioned the 4th project down in regards to establishment of circular ATV routes between communities. It was noted that the study is focusing on existing routes, but discussion is also addressing connectivity for some of the other routes. It would be good if routes were to tie into Washington County and even perhaps the Beaver Dam Wash area. This would require getting the BLM group on board. Mr. Demas explained that the new BLM field manager in St. George is really feeling a tremendous amount of pressure, but he is very open to discussion. One comment heard many times is that this RMP more resembles a Forest Service plan with everything that is being restricted as opposed to an RMP. The document consists of 1200 pages and it is repetitive over and over throughout. Mr. Rob Dotson suggested changing the wording for #4 to read "Establish circular ATV routes between communities and counties". This is what is currently being worked on in conjunction with the BLM. This would provide for elimination of the project titled "ATV connection to the High Desert Trail". Mr. Dave Demas indicated that it might be well to leave the High Desert Trail as a separate project in light of what is occurring now in Washington County where the law requires connection with this specific trail in Iron County. It was consensus of the committee members to utilize the project ranking as provided.

Mr. Dave Demas referenced the two transit projects included on the list and indicated that he would like to see a good solid transit study for CATS. Beginning January 2016 there will be free transit for Dixie State University students to ride SunTran. The University will be adding a small amount to the first semester tuition that will be used to fund free ridership for students. This also helps St. George City because the funds can be utilized as match for transit. Some discussion has been initiated with Ryan Marshall for CATS to approach Southern Utah University with a similar proposal. It would be good to fund a study that would address optimization and/or a route study that would cut the headway down and make the system more reasonable to use. Offering free transit to students could help to boost usage of the CATS system. This would be a good population to target for more efficient use. The SunTran system has been greatly expanded in the St. George area and ridership has increased dramatically. Mr. Tom Stratton reported that Brian Head recently signed another contract with St. George Shuttle to provide shuttle service to Brian Head.

Mr. Steve Platt provided on correction on the funded projects to move the south leg of the belt route phase 1 to the completed list. The project has not been highly advertised, but people are beginning to use the road. He noted that the county still has some shoulder work remaining, but the road itself is finished. Corrections will be made on the original list and a copy will be emailed out to committee members. Mr. Steve Platt mentioned that someone



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from Iron County should be appointed to serve on the Transportation Commission. The County needs more representation on various committees and transportation is very important. Mr. Dave Demas suggested that attending these meetings and expressing an interest to be considered as a nomination may be the best approach. Naghi Zeenati is currently serving on the Transportation Commission as the representative from this area.

A motion was made by Mr. Kit Wareham, seconded by Mr. Steve Platt, to approve the priority list as revised for submission in draft format to UDOT and for formal approval of RTEC in January 2016. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. Next Year's Schedule

Mr. Dave Demas provided a copy of the 2016 tentative annual meeting schedule.

VI. Other Discussion Items

A. Next meeting, Data and Location: The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2016 at the Iron County office.

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Rob Dotson, seconded by Mr. Steve Platt, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.